

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1 of the specification, please amend the paragraph bridging line 26 of page 1, to line 8 of page 2 of the specification, as follows:

"Explosive loaded munitions are transported and stored in manners intended to minimize risks of accidental detonation. However, accidents such as an overturned tractor trailer, a train derailment, or a cargo plane crash can occur during transport of the munitions. In some instances, the ensuing fire and heat resulting from the accident could provide sufficient thermal stimuli to cause the munitions to detonate. In such an event, a chain explosion could result from sometimes a single munition explosion. To minimize such a risk of accidental explosions, the United States of America's, Department of Defense (DoD) issued DoD Directive 5000.2-R, which requires that all munitions and weapons be designed to withstand unplanned stimuli such as heat from fire, shock from blast, and impact from fragments and bullets. This requirement, which is termed and referred to as Insensitive Munitions (IM), applies to all new munition acquisitions for the U.S. Armed Forces."

Also, please amend the paragraph bridging page 4, line 27, to page 5, line 2 of the specification, as follows:

" FIG. 6 is comprised of FIGS. 6A, 6B, 6C, wherein FIG. 6A is a side view of the support ring of FIG. 5, FIG. 6B is a front (or rear) view of the support ring, and FIG. 6C is a cross-sectional view of the support ring taken along line A-A of FIG. 6B; and "

Also, on page 13 of the specification, please amend the paragraph of lines 15 to 23 there, as follows:

"In the event of an unplanned thermal stimulus such as an external heat or fire

source, the intumescent coating 92 on the metal ammunition container 90 insulates the fiberboard tubes 70 and the explosive loaded cartridges 10 packaged therein from the fire, and further abates the rate of heating of the explosive loaded cartridges 10. The gradual heating inside the metal ammunition container 90 ensures that the threaded fuze adapter 12 ~~reaches~~ ~~reach~~ its melting temperature prior to the main charge explosive 26 reaching its auto-ignition temperature, thus preventing an accidental detonation of the explosive loaded cartridge 10. "